



Statements & Letters of Support for  
The American Health Care Act

From

**CONSERVATIVE GROUPS**



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March 17, 2017

(202) 626-8820

RE: NRLC urges "yes" vote on the American Health Care Act to repeal and replace portions of the Obama health care law.

Dear Member of Congress:

The National Right to Life Committee (NRLC), the federation of state right-to-life organizations, strongly supports the American Health Care Act in the form reported out by the Budget Committee on March 16, because it contains the following essential provisions: 1) prevents federal tax credits from being used for plans that pay for abortions, 2) preserves non-taxed employer-provided health plans, 3) postpones the "Cadillac tax" until 2025 and 4) eliminates roughly 89% of federal Planned Parenthood funding for the next year.

This legislation would eliminate multiple abortion-subsidizing and abortion-expanding provisions of Public Law 111-148, the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)."

As enacted, the PPACA contains multiple provisions authorizing federal subsidies for abortion, and abortion-expanding regulatory mandates. A 2014 GAO report revealed that over 1,000 federally subsidized plans nationwide were covering elective abortion. The American Health Insurance Act would repeal the provisions of law that created this system, and prohibit any future federal tax credits from subsidizing the purchase of plans that cover elective abortion, thereby restoring the longstanding principles of the Hyde Amendment with respect to federally funded health coverage.

NRLC also strongly supports the language in the bill that would block, for one year, most federal payments to affiliates of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA). It would close the largest pipeline for federal funding of Planned Parenthood, Medicaid, and apply as well to the CHIP and the Title V and Title X block grant programs, thus covering roughly 89% of all federal funds to Planned Parenthood. The amounts denied to Planned Parenthood, in effect, are reallocated to community health centers. Over one-third of all abortions in the U.S. are performed at PPFA-affiliated facilities. For additional up-to-date information on the extent of Planned Parenthood's involvement in abortion, see: [www.nrlc.org/communications/ppfamediabackground/](http://www.nrlc.org/communications/ppfamediabackground/)

In addition, the American Health Care Act retains employer-paid health insurance as a fully untaxed benefit. The American Health Care Act postpones the "Cadillac tax" which is designed to create a tax disincentive to suppress private, nongovernmental health care spending beyond a governmentally imposed limit. It is critical that Americans have access to quality life-saving healthcare to preserve their lives, care that will not be rationed more each year.

While we recognize that additional changes may be made to the bill before it reaches the House floor, if the essential elements listed above are retained, and no objectionable new components are added, NRLC intends to include the roll call on passage of the American Health Care Act in our scorecard of key right-to-life roll calls of the 115th Congress.

Thank you for your consideration of the position of National Right to Life on this matter of grave importance to our organization.

Sincerely,



Carol Tobias  
President



David N. O'Steen, Ph.D.  
Executive Director



Jennifer Popik, J.D.  
Legislative Director

March 15, 2017

## Open Letter to Congress: Coalition Supports American Health Care Act

On behalf of our organizations, representing millions of Americans from across the country, we write in support of the American Health Care Act (AHCA). As advocates of free market principles and limited government, we endorse this significant legislation that would take the first major step toward repealing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, better known as Obamacare. In its place, it would create a more market-oriented health care system that prioritizes liberty, consumer choice, and innovation over Obamacare's government mandates.

AHCA repeals nearly all of Obamacare's tax increases, thereby saving taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars. These taxes – including the prescription drug tax, "medicine cabinet" tax, and health insurance tax, just to name a few – have increased the cost of health care and placed an unnecessary financial burden on individuals and families. Further, the bill would eliminate both the individual and employer mandates, which are punitive measures that have effectively acted as hefty taxes. AHCA would also wisely expand Health Savings Accounts and significantly increase the flexibility of these funds.

Additionally, the legislation would implement the most significant entitlement reforms in more than 20 years. By converting Medicaid to a per capita allotment and putting the massive program on a budget, it would shield taxpayers from rapidly escalating costs, encourage innovation, and shift power out of Washington and into state capitals.

To ensure that all Americans have access to health insurance, AHCA would create a means-tested, advanceable, and refundable tax credit that would be available to individuals who do not have access to employer sponsored insurance or government programs. For decades, conservatives and libertarians have advocated for tax credits as the preferred mechanism to provide financial assistance to lower income Americans for the purchase health insurance. Tax credits empower the less affluent to make their own health care decisions in the private marketplace, rather than relying upon inefficient and costly government programs.

The AHCA is the first of several necessary steps to fully repeal Obamacare and replace it with a patient-centered, free market approach to health care. We look forward to working with you and the Administration to make this and other important policy changes that will help reduce health care costs and improve the quality of care for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Brandon Arnold, Executive Vice President  
National Taxpayers Union



Grover Norquist, President  
Americans for Tax Reform

Dan Weber, CEO  
Association of Mature American Citizens

Peter Nelson, Vice President and Senior Policy Fellow  
Center of the American Experiment

Tom Schatz, President  
Council for Citizens Against Government Waste

Heather Higgins, President and CEO  
Independent Women's Voice

Andrew Langer, President  
Institute for Liberty

Gregory T. Angelo, President  
Log Cabin Republicans

Charlie Sauer, President  
Market Institute

Ryan Ellis, Founding Co-Chair  
Obamacare Repeal Coalition

Jerry Rogers, Founder  
Six Degrees Project

Karen Kerrigan, President and CEO  
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council



## AMERICANS for TAX REFORM

March 8, 2017

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2205 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Brady and Chairman Walden:

I write in support of your efforts to repeal Obamacare and implement numerous reforms toward creating a patient-centered, free market healthcare system.

**Your Obamacare repeal bill abolishes 14 taxes that today siphon off nearly one trillion dollars from American Taxpayers each decade. The bill also expands Health Savings Accounts, making health care reform patient-centered rather than top-down command and control. And the reform block grants Medicaid to the states through a per capita allotment-- a long time Reagan Republican goal to empower states and reduce federal control.**

This legislation is an excellent first step in implementing a healthcare system that works for all Americans.

Opposition to this legislation means support for the status quo that is Obamacare. This is unsustainable and reckless. The law has resulted in one-size fits all insurance that is too expensive, despite numerous government subsidies. Over [one thousand](#) counties in the nation have just one insurer participating on an exchange. Premiums [increased](#) by close to 25 percent last year, a trend that will likely only increase as insurers continue to leave.

Change is clearly needed.

Many lawmakers in Congress have long promised their constituents they would repeal and replace Obamacare with a cost-effective, patient centered, sustainable alternative. By passing this legislation they can fulfill this commitment to voters.

### Repeal of Obamacare Taxes

When it was signed into law, Obamacare imposed nearly 20 new or higher taxes that hit [middle class families](#), raise the cost of healthcare, and reduce access to care in Obamacare.

The law imposed a tax for failing to buy government-mandated insurance, a new tax on health insurance, a tax on medical devices, a tax on innovative medicines, taxes on Health Savings Accounts and Flexible Spending Accounts, and even a tax hike on Americans facing high medical bills.

This legislation repeals all of these taxes. It also delays the Cadillac tax on employer provided insurance plans to 2025.

Repealing these taxes will provide much needed relief to the paychecks of families across the country. Repealing Obamacare will also undo former President Barack Obama's [broken promise](#) not to sign "any form of tax increase" on any middle class American family.

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## **Expands Health Savings Accounts**

Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) are a **key component** to ensuring Americans have access to patient centered health care that best fits their needs and keeps costs low. American families typically pay for some or their entire healthcare costs indirectly (doctors and hospital visits, medicines and treatments etc.). HSAs give individuals direct control over these funds so they can make healthcare choices that best fit their individual needs and in the most efficient way.

Not only does the repeal bill abolish several taxes on HSAs, the law also contains several improvements. The plan expands the contribution limits for HSAs (\$6,550 for individuals and \$13,100) so they can now be relied on to cover more medical costs. The legislation also increases the flexibility of savings accounts by allowing spouses to make catch-up contributions to HSAs and allows HSAs to cover certain medical expenses incurred before the saving account has been established.

## **Implements New, Age-Adjusted Tax Credit**

The legislation implements an improved advanced refundable tax credit that is administered based on a taxpayer's age (\$2,000 for individuals under 30 scaling up to \$4,000 for individuals over 60). The credit is indexed to inflation plus one percentage point and applies to the oldest five individuals in a family. It can be used by anyone not receiving employee insurance or Medicare/Medicaid and any excess funds from this credit can be deposited into an HSA.

Compared to the flawed and **highly wasteful** income based Obamacare tax credit, this new tax credit is far more efficient and will result in taxpayer dollars being spent far more responsibly.

While some have claimed that this tax credit is an entitlement, it is a common feature of Republican alternatives to Obamacare. The plan put forward by **Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.)** contains tax credits, as does the plan released by **HHS Secretary Tom Price** when he was in Congress. All of these plans contain tax credits because they are vastly superior to other alternatives such as a straight subsidy.

## **Enacts Medicaid Reform**

The existing fiscal trajectory of Medicaid is unsustainable. Obamacare expanded Medicaid to millions of able-bodied adults, an **approach** with high costs and low outcomes.

The House legislation addresses this by block granting Medicaid to the states through a per capita allotment. This approach will control federal spending and ensure states retain flexibility to implement a system that best fits their individual needs. Streamlining the funding process will not only ensure that Medicaid enrollees have access to more appropriate care, it will also cut down on waste, and promote more efficient allotment of resources.

## **Addresses Obamacare's Insurance Regulations**

The legislation reduces the impact of many Obamacare insurance regulations. Most notably, the bill zeroes out the individual mandate and employer mandate tax penalties. Under the House repeal bill, these mandates become suggestions with no enforcement mechanism.

The bill also increases coverage options by repealing actuarial standards of Obamacare plans and permits changes to age-based ratings to give insurers greater flexibility over costs.

In other cases, this bill does not repeal or modify insurance regulations, because doing so would mean the bill is no longer reconciliation compliant and thus would be unable to pass the Senate under a simple majority. Adding new insurance regulation provisions means a 60 vote threshold in the Senate, which makes it virtually impossible to pass repeal legislation.

In these cases, HHS Secretary Price has the authority to loosen or undo regulations. Numerous sections of federal law grant the Secretary broad discretion to reinterpret federal law including what counts as a “qualified health plan” or “essential benefits,” or to grant states “innovation waivers” to Obamacare requirements.

Onward,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Norquist', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Grover G. Norquist  
President, Americans for Tax Reform





PRESS RELEASE

## NTU Applauds Release of GOP's Health Care Plan

March 7, 2017 / share:

National Taxpayers Union (NTU), the nation's oldest taxpayer advocacy organization, applauds the release of the House Republicans' health care plan.

Brandon Arnold, NTU's Executive Vice President, stated: "The American Health Care Act is an important first step toward fully repealing Obamacare and replacing it with a patient-centered, free market solution for all Americans. It contains bold provisions that would reduce taxes, empower individual health care consumers, shift power from Washington to state capitals, and restrain government overreach.

"Taxpayers should be particularly pleased to see that nearly all of the Obamacare tax increases will be repealed upon passage of this bill. Tax hikes like the health insurance tax, the "medicine cabinet" tax, the medical device tax, and the prescription drug tax have all increased the cost of health care to the great detriment of consumers. Getting rid of all of these is a big victory for taxpayers. Additionally, the bill would scrap the egregious individual and employer mandates, which effectively act as taxes."

Some conservatives have expressed concern about the bill's inclusion of a means-tested tax credit that would be provided to individuals who do not have access to insurance through their employers or via government programs. However, this is an appropriate way to empower individuals and families as the system transitions away from Obamacare's complex, cumbersome credits and government-imposed mandates. As Arnold notes, "The tax credit will put consumers, instead of the federal government, in charge of their own insurance options. Making this tax credit advanceable and refundable ensures that all Americans – regardless of their level of income – will have access to affordable insurance. This is particularly important for assisting workers with limited financial means."

Arnold acknowledged that the legislation is far from perfect. He stated, "To be sure, there is much more work to do. This legislation does not repeal all of Obamacare's regulations and leaves in place the so-called 'Cadillac tax' on higher-cost insurance plans."

"This bill is a necessary first step in a long process to repeal and replace Obamacare," Arnold concluded. NTU hopes Congress will promptly send the legislation to the President's desk and continue working to implement critical, free market health care policies on behalf of American taxpayers."